GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:257
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2005
IMPORT OF SENSITIVE PRODUCTS
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working on a sensitive list of non-agriculture products which it wants to be excluded from tariff reduction commitments at the WTO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is trying to abide by the WTO condition of limiting the number of sensitive products;

(d) whether the value of imports of the sensitive products does not exceed 5% of total value of imported goods;

(e) whether the Government has received requests from various Ministries and Departments for keeping products of their interest out of reduction commitments; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) to (f): India is seeking flexibility for developing countries whereby the tariff reduction formula will not apply on a particular number of sensitive products to be identified by each developing country. The nature and the extent of the flexibility are being negotiated and are yet to be finalised by WTO Members.

Identification of the sensitive products is an exercise which is undertaken through analysis of India`s trade data by research institutions and in consultation with the concerned administrative Ministries.